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Press Item for the DCI

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UPI-64

(VIET NEWS)

SAIGON --REP. JOHN E. MOSS D-CALIF., SAID TODAY TESTIMONY HE HAS RECEIVED SO FAR ON POLICIES GOVERNING NEWS BROADCASTS TO U.S. TROOPS IN VIETNAM INDICATES THERE MAY WELL BE A PATTERN OF NEWS MANAGEMENT EMANATING FROM THE P

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TAGON ON "THE HIGHEST

SOURCES IN WASHINGTON.Z

MOSS, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION SUBCOMMITTEE, SAID HE WAS "DISTRESSED" BY WHAT HE HAD HEARD SO FAR IN HIS ON THE SPOT INVESTIGATION AND ADDED "IT HAS BECOME QUITE CLEAR TO ME THAT WE WILL HAVE TO HAVE FOLLOWUP HEARINGS IN THE UNITED STATES."

IN TODAY'S CLOSED HEARING, MOSS INTERVIEWED FIVE ENLISTED MEN INVOLVED IN CHARGES OF NEWS MANAGEMENT AGAINST U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS WHO SUPERVISE NEWS BROADCASTS OVER AFVN, THE ARMED FORCES RADIO AND TELEVISION OUTLETS IN VIETNAM.

AMONG THOSE APPEARING BEFORE MOSS WAS SPEC. 5 ROBERT LAWRENCE, 27, OF ATLANTA, GA., WHO WAS TRANSFERRED TO A POST AS A CHAPLAIN'S ASSISTANT FROM HIS NEWSCASTER'S JOB AFTER MAKING CHARGES OF CENSORSHIP ON A TELEVISED AFVN NEWSCAST.

A MILITARY INVESTIGATION WHICH FOLLOWED THE INCIDENT RESULTED IN A STATEMENT BY THE MILITARY COMMAND THAT CENSORSHIP CHARGES WERE "COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED AND UNSUPPORTED."

BUT MOSS SAID THAT THE TESTIMONY FROM LAWRENCE AND THE OTHER WITNESSES INDICATED "THERE WELL MAY BE A PATTERN OF MANAGEMENT... NEWS MANAGEMENT OF POLICY MANAGEMENT...COMING FROM EITHER MACV (MILITARY ASSISTANCE COMMAND, VIETNAM) OR DOD (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE).

"IT COULD EMANATE FROM THE HIGHEST SOURCES IN WASHINGTON," SAID MOSS.

2/16--AR1042AES

Comment: Goodwin and Maury have copies.